



# CAREERS IN NURSING: EXPLORE, PREPARE & APPLY

Nursing is more than a career — it's a calling to care for individuals, families, and communities. Whether you're drawn to bedside care, education, leadership, or research, nursing offers endless possibilities to grow and make an impact.

Need help developing your plan, reviewing your application materials, or finding opportunities? Schedule a meeting with your Career Development Coach through Handshake.

## EXPLORE NURSING CAREER PATHS

- [National Student Nurses' Association: Career Planning Guides](#) – Explore roles, education paths, and career tips.
- [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) – Job descriptions, pay, and job outlook for nursing careers.
- [O\\*NET Online](#) – Learn about job tasks, values, and work environments.
- [Candid Career](#) – Watch short video interviews with nurses across specialties.
- [Nursing Degree Guide](#) – Articles on what to expect in nursing school and early career life.

## DISCOVER NURSING SPECIALTIES

- [Nurse.org](#) – Explore unique specialties and read articles like '11 Cool Specialties You've Never Heard Of'.
- [Nurse Journal](#) – Non-hospital roles and advanced practice careers.
- [Nursing Explorer](#) – Nursing specialties and educational pathways.
- [American Mobile NurseZone](#) – Travel nursing and other nontraditional roles.

## PREPARE FOR THE JOB SEARCH

Job searching in healthcare can feel daunting, but you're not alone. Here are tools and resources to help you create strong materials and interview with confidence.

### Helpful Articles and Guides

- [HealthCareers](#) – 3,000+ articles on resumes, interviewing, and networking.
- [Anatomy of an Excellent Nursing Resume \(ANA\)](#) – Resume writing tips from the American Nurses Association.
- [Nurse.org](#) – Articles on applying for your first nursing job and handling interview nerves.
- [Johns Hopkins Guide to Interviewing for Nursing](#) – Comprehensive prep tips.
- [BluePipes](#) – Details to include on a nursing resume.
- [AllNurses.com Forums](#) – Peer discussion on resumes, interviews, and job search challenges.

### Interview Prep Tools

- [InterviewStream](#) – Practice virtual interviews.
- [Mayo Clinic Interview Tips](#) – Advice for healthcare-focused interviews.
- [Glassdoor](#) – Search real interview questions and salary info.

## JOB BOARDS AND SEARCH TOOLS

- [American Nurses Association Career Center](#)
- [Nurse Recruiter](#)
- [Nurse.com](#)
- [NursingJobs.org](#)
- [SC Nurses Association](#)
- [Health Jobs Nationwide](#)
- [Med Careers](#)
- [VA Careers](#)
- [Indeed](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

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## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Professional organizations help you stay current, network, and access exclusive job boards.

### National

- [American Nurses Association \(ANA\)](#)
- [American Association of Colleges of Nursing \(AACN\)](#)
- [National League for Nursing \(NLN\)](#)
- [National Black Nurses Association \(NBNA\)](#)
- [Society of Pediatric Nurses](#)
- [National Student Nurses' Association \(NSNA\)](#)

### South Carolina

- [SC Nurses Association](#)
- [SC Board of Nursing](#)
- [SC Health Care Association](#)
- [SC Hospital Association](#)
- [SC Emergency Nurses Association](#)
- [SC Organization of Nurse Leaders](#)
- [SC School Nurses Association](#)
- [Student Nurses' Association of South Carolina](#)

## FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

- **Location and environment** – Hospital, clinic, school, telehealth, or travel nursing?
- **Company culture** – Check Glassdoor or Salary.com for insights.
- **Pay and benefits** – Compare across specialties using Payscale.
- **Connections** – Use LinkedIn's 'Find Alumni' tool to see where USC nursing grads are working.

### PRO TIPS

- Network through conferences and nursing associations — many roles are filled through connections.
- Keep a 'skills portfolio' that includes certifications, clinical rotations, and continuing education.
- Remember: compassion and professionalism matter as much as credentials.